

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 ACDA-19 MC-02 MBFR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6550

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, UN, UR, CH, XJ

SUBJ: SOVIET AND CHINESE CLAIMS AT OSLO CONFERENCE

REF: OSLO 1472 (NOTAL)

1. BOTH THE RUSSIAN AND THE CHINESE DELEGATE- EXPERTS AT THE UN/ OAU OSLO CONFERENCE LAST WEEK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY ARE PROVIDING ARMS AID TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. THE RUSSIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WAS EXPLICIT, THE CHINESE LESS SO.

2. IN HIS " EXPERT" PAPER, PROFESSOR V. G. SOLODOVNIKOV, THE SENIOR SOVIET DELEGATE, LISTED THE VARIOUS CHANNELS TH QIUAPIULZ THE USSR AIDS THE " STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIAL-
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ISM AND RACISM"... IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FIRST ON HIS LIST OF ACTIONS WAS THE SOVIET UNION'S FAITHFUL FULFILLMENT OF ALL UN DECISIONS " DIRECTED AT A TOTAL ENDING OF ALL TIES WITH... SOUTH AFRICA AND PORTUGAL" AND A DENIAL THAT EVEN THE MOST TENUOUS OF TRADE LINKS CONTINUE TO EXIST. SECOND ON HIS LIST WERE THE MEASURES THE USSR IS TAKING TO STRENGTHEN THE USSR'S TIES WITH THE INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES AND WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS; FOLLOWING THE PRECEPTS OF LENIN, HE SAID, THE " SOVIET UNION PROVIDES FREE ARMS, FOOD, MEDICINES, AND CLOTHING TO THE EMBATTLED PATRIOTS OF PORTUGUESE COLONIES AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT HELPS THEM IN TRAINING CADRES, INCLUDING MILITARY PERSONNEL." HE PROMISED DISCLOSURE OF THE VOLUME OF THIS AID AT AN UNSPECIFIED TIME IN THE FUTURE.

3. WHILE NEVER AS EXPLICIT, THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE, CHANG YUNG- KUAN, IN HIS REMARKS TO THE CONFERENCE ON APRIL 10 CRITICISED " A CERTAIN SUPER- POWER" FOR ITS EFFORTS TO " INFILTRATE INTO AFRICA" UNDER A GUISE OF SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE REFERRED, WITHOUT MENTIONING THE SOVIET UNION BY NAME, TO THE ABSTENTION OF THE SAME " SUPER- POWER" ON A UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IN FEBRUARY 1973 IN SUPPORT OF ZAMBIA'S STRUGGLE WITH RHODESIA, THUS REVEALING AGAIN " THE UGLY FEATURES OF ITS SHAM SUPPORT FOR THE AFRICAN PEOPLES' STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND ACTUAL COLLUSION WITH THE IMPERIALISTS, COLONIALISTS, AND RACISTS." HE ENDORSED " ARMED STRUGGLE AS THE ONLY CHOICE FOR AFRICA TO ACHIEVE LIBERATION," ADDING THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IN THEIR JUST STRUGGLE, REGARDING IT AS " OUR OWN" (STRUGGLE) AND PROVIDING " ALL ASSISTANCE WITHIN OUR CAPABILITY, IN VARIOUS WAYS AND THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS."

4. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO JUDGE PRECEDENTS IN THIS MATTER, BUT THE OSLO PRESS HAS SUGGESTED THAT PROFESSOR SOLODOVNIK'S COMMENTS ON " FREE ARMS" AND MR. CHANG'S ENDORSEMENT OF CHINESE AID TO THE AFRICAN ARMED STRUGGLE ARE THE FIRST TIME THE TWO COMMUNIST SUPER- POWERS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED PROVIDING ARMS ASSISTANCE TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE WOULD ADD, FOR THE RECORD, THAT THIS " EXCHANGE" WAS THE ONLY NEWS THE SOVIET AND CHINESE DELEGATIONS MADE DURING THE WEEK- LONG CONFERENCE; ON ALL OTHER MATTERS, BOTH DELEGATIONS PLAYED A LOW- POSTURE ROLE. COPIES OF THE CHINESE AND SOVIET PAPERS POUCHED TO MOSCOW AND THE DEPT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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